

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01956 240855Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 240824Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9020

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SEOUL 1956

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, VS, KS, TW, ID

SUBJECT: LST LOAN

REF: A) STATE 64016 B) SAIGON 3340

1. THE ROK NAVY CURRENTLY HAS IN ITS INVENTORY EIGHT  
LST'S (FOUR PURCHASED UNDER FMS (CASH) AND FOUR  
TRANSFERRED UNDER GRANT AID)  
ALL IN GENERALLY  
SERVICEABLE CONDITION. THESE SHIPS ARE USED REGULARLY  
BY ROKN FOR LOGISTIC LIFTS AND AMPHIBIOUS EXERCISES  
(ONE OR TWO EMPLOYED UNDER NORMAL OPERATIONS, SURGING  
TO FOUR OR MORE DURING EXERCISES). ONLY A VERY FEW  
AT MOST COULD BE LOANED WITHOUT OPERATIONAL IMPACT.

2. REHABILITATION ON RETURN AND MAINTENANCE AND  
OPERATING COSTS DURING THE LOAN PERIOD WOULD BE A  
CONCERN OF ROKS. REPLACEMENT, IF THE LST'S SHOULD  
BE EITHER LOST OR DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR, WOULD OF  
COURSE BE ANOTHER CONCERN. THE ONLY POTENTIAL REPLACE-  
MENTS ARE LST'S OWNED BY MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND (MSC) AND  
AND PREVIOUSLY REJECTED FOR PURCHASE BY THE ROKN  
BECAUSE OF THEIR QUESTIONABLE MATERIAL CONDITION.  
ADDITIONALLY, FUNDING FOR PURCHASE AND MAKING THE MSC

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LST'S SERVICEABLE WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE

EVENT THEY ARE NEEDED AS REPLACEMENTS.

3. ASIDE FROM ABOVE PROBLEMS, HIGHEST LEVELS OF ROKG AS WELL AS MND WOULD VIEW LST REQUEST AGAINST BACK-GROUND, AS THEY SEE IT, OF OUR "FAILURE" TO LIVE UP FULLY TO TERMS OF ENHANCE PLUS AGREEMENT. WHILE THEY ARE INDEED CONCERNED ABOUT TRENDS IN INDO-CHINA, ROK LEADERS HAVE ALREADY EVIDENCED CONSIDERABLE

LACK OF ENTHUSIASM OVER OUR REQUEST THAT THEY PROVIDE EQUIVALENT \$4.1 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE TO GVN. LST REQUEST WOULD BE SEEN AS ADDED BURDEN UNLESS WE WERE WILLING TO REDUCE THE \$4.1 MILLION BY COMPARABLE BAILMENT COST. BUT WE EXPECT IN LAST ANALYSIS GIVEN ALL FACTORS ROKG WOULD STILL BE RELUCTANT TO FURNISH LSTS.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ABOVE PREPARED PRIOR RECEIPT REF,

WE BELIEVE IT REMAINS VALID. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD HELP ANY DEMARCHE WE MAY BE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE PER PARA 10B, REF B IF AS SUGGESTED PARA 3 ABOVE WE CAN REDUCE \$4.1 MILLION BY COMPARABLE BAILMENT COST.  
ERICSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIPS, LST, LOANS, GRANTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** MASS, VS, KS, TW, ID  
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